



City of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Department of Development Building Services Division

757 Carolyn Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43224

Construction Industry Communication #CIC-02

POLICY MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Dryer Exhaust Systems

DATE: Revised November 17, 2005

RE: Exceptions to required dryer exhaust length

FROM: Charles Boshane, Interim Chief Building Official

TO: Refrigeration / HVAC Supervisors and Field Staff

This memorandum is for instructional purposes as to how the City of Columbus, Building Services will be performing inspection of dryer exhaust systems in both residential and commercial structures where domestic type dryer appliances and exhaust systems are installed.

Due to the increasing number of dryer exhaust systems designed and proposing to use clothes dryer booster fans to exceed the length limits specified in code; after careful review of both the Residential Code of Ohio 2004 and the Ohio Mechanical Code 2002 and 2005 Editions, the following determination shall become the inspection process, policy and procedure for all **domestic** dryer exhaust systems installed within our jurisdiction.

In accordance with **Section M 1503.1 Length Limitation** of the **Residential Code of Ohio 2004 Edition** and **Section 504.6.1 Maximum Length** of the **Ohio Mechanical Code 2002 and 2005 Editions**. The maximum length of a clothes dryer exhaust shall not exceed 25 feet from the dryer location to the outlet termination.

NOTE: The use of a clothes dryer booster fan to exceed length limitation as specified in code is exclusive to the **RCO**; the City of Columbus will extend this exception to Commercial (multi-family) units utilizing domestic dryer and exhaust systems in accordance with the following exceptions.

Exceptions:

- 1) A listed and labeled clothes dryer booster fan shall be permitted provided it meets the following criteria:
 - a) It shall require submittal to plans examination for review and approval. (If design is approved, it will then proceed to note b)
 - b) It shall be adjudicated to the Ohio Board of Building Appeals for a variance approval prior to installation.

- c) A permanent label shall be affixed adjacent to the dryer location to notify user that the dryer exhaust system is equipped with a booster fan that is required for safe operation of the dryer. This label shall bear instructions as determined by system safe guard design.
 - d) The booster fan shall be electrically interlocked with the dryer or the appliance power source to prevent dryer operation in the event of booster fan operation failure. In the event electrical interlock is prohibited by the dryer or booster fan manufacturer, an illuminating light device to indicate booster fan operation shall be installed at dryer location.
- 2) Where the make and model of the appliance is known the length shall be permitted to be in accordance with the manufacturers specifications provided the following criteria is met:
- a) The make and model shall be submitted for approval prior to installation.
 - b) The dryer as submitted in part (a) of this exception shall be installed and operational at the Final Inspection and a permanent label shall be affixed adjacent to the dryer exhaust inlet stating that “any dryer connected to this dryer exhaust system must be capable of exceeding (the installed length must be specified) feet”.

Commercial clothes dryers and **exhaust duct systems** shall remain in accordance and comply with the requirements as mandated by the Ohio Mechanical Code Current Edition and Manufacturer Specifications.

Booster Fan Notification Labels

Dependant upon the method of system design and to limit label variations; label shall read as follows:

For designs where the dryer or power source is electrically interlocked preventing dryer operation:

“This dryer exhaust system is equipped with a booster fan for safe operation. Should this dryer fail to operate check booster fan for operation. Service and clean as necessary”

For designs where the dryer and booster fan are unable to be electrically interlocked a notification must be made to alert user that a problem exists and service is required.

“This dryer exhaust system is equipped with a booster fan; if light is not illuminated **DO NOT** use dryer until system has been serviced and cleaned as necessary.”